



Bethany ★ Branford ★ Cheshire ★ East Haven ★ Guilford ★ Hamden ★ Madison ★ Milford ★ New Haven ★ North Branford ★ North Haven ★ Orange ★ Wallingford ★ West Haven ★ Woodbridge

**Testimony of the
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
to the Labor Committee**

February 20, 2007

Re: SB 602, AAC Employer-Sponsored Meetings

Chairman Prague, Chairman Ryan, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to Testify today **in Opposition to SB 602, AAC Employer-Sponsored Meetings**. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton, and I am Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce. The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce is a regional business organization with more than 1900 members from 15 cities and towns in the region.

SB 602 would "prohibit healthcare entities, excluding certain religious organizations or institutions of higher education that receive over one hundred million dollars in state funds, from using such funds to require employees to attend employer-sponsored meetings that have as their primary purpose communications about religious or political matters." SB 602 should not be enacted for the following reasons.

SB 602 is preempted by the National Labor Relations Act "NLRA" and would be invalid if enacted. Section 7 of the NLRA prescribes the rights of employees to participate in union organizing activities, to join unions if so desired, or to refrain from doing so. This process allows both the union and the employer the opportunity to present information to eligible voters. The National Labor Relations Board is charged with overseeing the process to ensure that it's fair.

Furthermore, Section 8 C of the NLRA provides that it is not an unfair labor practice for an employer to express a view about unionization, which could include speaking to its employees about unionization. The existing provision is intended to ensure that employees receive a balanced perspective. The Chamber urges you to oppose this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco-Beauton, Director of Governmental Affairs, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, at (203) 782-4330.